



## Labor Secretary Bello III Meets Filipino Community at LA PCG



(Above) Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III (center) conveyed the President' commitment to protect and secure the Overseas Filipinos. (Below) Consul General Adelio Angelito Cruz acknowledged the Philippine labor officials and the Fil-com leaders.



24 May 2019, Los Angeles, California – Over 70 Filipino community leaders attended the town hall meeting with Philippine labor officials headed by Secretary of Labor and Employment Silvestre Bello III at the community hall of the Philippine Consulate General.

Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz, in his welcome remarks, expressed his gratitude to the Labor Officials for meeting the Fil-com. To him, it was an important occasion for the Overseas Filipinos (OFs) to convey their pressing labor concerns.

Considering the growing influx of OFs in the West Coast, Secretary Bello III announced that a new Labor Attaché will be assigned in Los Angeles for prompt assistance and coordination of OFs labor concerns. He also mentioned that part of the administration's "Build, Build, Build" Program is

the establishment of a hospital dedicated for OFs as part of the President's commitment to protect and secure their welfare.

Overseas Workers Welfare Administrator Leo Hans Cacdac and Philippine Overseas Employment Administrator Bernard Olalia educated the public of their respective mandates and services of their offices.



(Above) LA PCG personnel pose with Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III (center) at the Community Hall of the Philippine Consulate General.

Some of the notable questions that were raised during the forum were the loss of eligibility of H-2B & H2-A visas and the rising number of OFs afflicted with HIV virus.

Secretary Bello mentioned that visa concerns are no longer perceived as a problem because the President wants Filipinos back to the country and that there are programs and employment await them. He also informed them that the new hospital will not only offer preventive medical services, but also curative remedy for overseas workers. END.